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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7053

SECRET RABAT 11001

NODIS

DEPT FOR SECRETARY SHULTZ

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO WHITE HOUSE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR MC FARLANE AND ADMIRAL MURPHY

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR SECRETARY WEINBERGER

E. O. 12356: OADR

TAGS: PREL, US, MO

SUBJ: AUDIENCE WITH KING HASSAN- - MESSAGE FOR

THE PRESIDENT

- 1. (SECRET-NODIS) ENTIRE TEXT
- 2. SUMMARY: DURING AN AUDIENCE IN FES ON DECEMBER 18, KING HASSAN DICTATED A MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT REAGAN, URGING THAT THE UNITED STATES PROVIDE LARGER AMOUNTS OF MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO MOROCCO. THE KING'S WARNING THAT THE UNITED STATES IS GETTING MORE FROM MOROCCO THAN IT RECEIVES IN RETURN UNDOUBTEDLY REFLECTS THE GROWING DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL PRESSURES WHICH HE IS UNDER. END SUMMARY.

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- 3. IN THE COURSE OF A 90 MINUTE AUDIENCE DECEMBER 18 AT THE ROYAL PALACE IN FES (FULL REPORTS OF WHICH I AM SENDING BY SEPTELS), THE KING, ACKNOW-LEDGING MY RENEWED EXPRESSION OF CONCERN OVER MOROCCO'S RELATIONS WITH LIBYA, ASKED ME TO CONVEY "TEXTUALLY" THE FOLLOWING "OUESTION" TO "MY FRIEND" THE PRESIDENT AND HIS SENIOR ADVISORS, WHICH HE INSISTED THAT POL OFF TAKE DOWN VERBATIM.
- 4. BEGIN TEXT: "AMERICA KNOWS IT CAN DO WHAT IT WANTS IN MOROCCO. MOROCCO HAS GIVEN YOU THE ACCESS AND TRANSIT AGREEMENT, AN ACTIVE MILITARY EXERCISE PROGRAM, UNRESTRICTED SHIP VISITS, PERMISSION TO EXPAND YOUR VOICE OF AMERICA STATION, AND A HOST OF OTHER PROGRAMS. I MUST ASK, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR MOROCCO IN EXCHANGE? I VALUE THE CLOSE RELATIONS I HAVE WITH THE LEADERS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND APPRECIATE THE MANY SIGNS OF FRIEND-SHIP I RECEIVE, BUT I AM DISAPPOINTED TO NOTE THAT THE FRIENDSHIP IS RARELY BACKED UP WITH CORRESPONDING SUBSTANCE. WHAT IS AMERICA GOING TO DO? YOU WILL HAVE TO MAKE A CHOICE! " END TEXT.
- 5. IN PARTING I ASKED HASSAN WHY HE HAD CHOSEN THIS MOMENT TO CONVEY SUCH A MESSAGE RATHER THAN DURING THE VISITS TO MOROCCO LAST YEAR OF THE VICE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE. HE RESPONDED, "I DID, BUT, PERHAPS I WAS TOO OBLIQUE. NOW WITH ADDIS AND NEW YORK THIS IS THE MOMENT OF TRUTH! " THE KING REITERATED HIS DESIRE FOR CONTINUED CLOSE TIES, REMINDING ME HE HAD GIVEN HIS WORD THAT THE "UNION" WITH LIBYA WOULD NOT

IN ANY WAY AFFECT THE U.S. RELATIONSHIP.

PAGE 04 OF 05 RABAT 11001 00 OF 02 1113112 C02/02 005310 NOD791 6. HASSAN ALSO OBSERVED SOMEWHAT OMINOUSLY THAT, WHILE HE WAS STILL UNHAPPY WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS EQUIVOCAL STANCE ON THE WESTERN SAHARA. HE HAD RECEIVED INDICATIONS FROM THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP THAT IT WILL SOON CHANGE ITS POLICY ON THE WESTERN SAHARA.

7. COMMENT: IN MY 20 YEARS OF ACQUAINTANCE. I HAVE NEVER SEEN THE KING MORE TENSE OR IMPATIENT THAN AT THE DECEMBER 10 AUDIENCE. AT SEVERAL POINTS DURING THE CONVERSATION, I INTERRUPTED TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT WITH REGARD TO SUB-STANTIAL AMERICAN ASSISTANCE TO MOROCCO. IN THIS CONNECTION, I NOTED THAT WE HAVE DONE MORE FOR MOROCCO IN THE INTELLIGENCE FIELD THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY, BUT HASSAN PUT THIS ASIDE AS "A CASE APART" AND INSTANCE OF "APPLES AND ORANGES". HE HAD CLEARLY REHEARSED THE MESSAGE HE WISHED TO DELIVER AND WAS IN NO MOOD TO BE DISSUADED OR SIDE-TRACKED. AS WE HAVE REPORTED. HE IS UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE AT HOME FOLLOWING RECENT DIPLOMATIC DEFEATS AND INCREASED CONFLICT IN THE SAHARA (RABAT 18923). UNDER SUCH STRESS. HASSAN IS PRONE TO REACT AS THE TRIBAL, BEDOUIN, BERBER AND FRANCOPHILE CHIEFTAIN WHICH HE IS. WHILE THE SOVIET UNION IS CLEARLY MANEUVERING TO GAIN GROUND HERE (RABAT 10634) HASSAN- -ISOLATED AND LACKING OTHER OPTIONS- - IS IN MY VIEW USING THE SOVIET THREAT AS A BARGAINING CHIP TO GAIN LEVERAGE WITH US. DESPITE HIS MESSAGE ABOVE. WHICH REFLECTS THE KING'S CURRENT MOOD, I BELIEVE THAT HASSAN REMAINS COMMITTED TO CONTINUED CLOSE TIES WITH THE UNITED STATES. HASSAN IS, HOWEVER, PASSING THROUGH

HIS MOST DIFFICULT PERIOD IN RECENT YEARS, AND WE WILL NEED TO BE ALERT BOTH TO OUR OWN INTERESTS PAGE 05 OF 05 RABAT 11001 00 OF 02 111311Z C02/02 005310 NOD791 AND TO THE POSSIBILITY OF UNPREDICTABLE REACTION TO PRESSURE. I WILL BE FORMULATING RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO RESPOND TO HASSAN FOR DISCUSSION DURING CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON ON DECEMBER 18. REED